

# Application Guide

## **Samvardhan Biodiversity & Conservation Fellowship**

The Fellowship is designed for early-career individuals (typically under 35) working in conservation, ecology, or community-linked environmental contexts. Formal, institutional training is not mandatory, but they should have 2-3 years of work experience through grassroots initiatives, community-based efforts, independent practice, or self-initiated projects, including those who have taken non-linear routes into conservation; and should be able to clearly articulate the real world learnings and constraints based on the contexts and communities they have worked in.

### **Section 1: Basic Information**

#### ***What this section covers***

*Basic details such as your name, contact information, current role, and education.*

#### ***Why we're asking***

*This helps us understand your background and ensure we can contact you if needed.*

#### ***How to approach it***

- *Fill in all details accurately*
- *Your current role can include independent work, volunteering, or informal roles*
- *Formal degrees are not required, so share what is most relevant*
- *Please do not upload personal documents such as Aadhaar cards or bank details*

#### **Questions in this section**

- Name
- Age
- Email
- Phone Number
- Current role / occupation
- Highest level of education
- PhD enrolment status
- Aadhaar card availability
- Bank account availability

### **Section 2: Current Work & Context**

#### ***What this section covers***

*Your current work, where you work, and the communities you engage with.*

### **Why we're asking**

*We want to understand your on-ground context, lived experience, and the kinds of communities and ecosystems you engage with.*

### **How to approach it**

- *Select all relevant options where multiple selections are allowed*
- *Be specific about your geography and landscape*
- *When describing communities, include:*
  - *Who you work with*
  - *The ecological or livelihood context*
  - *Social or environmental realities where relevant*
- *You may answer long-form questions through video responses if preferred*

### **Video Response Guidance**

*If uploading a video:*

- *Write "NA" in the text box*
- *Ensure you are audible and visible*
- *Avoid background noise*
- *Ensure the full response is recorded*

### **Questions in this section**

- Nature of current work
- Primary work setting
- Work location (district & state)
- Landscape type
- Communities you engage with

### **Section 3: Experience & Exposure**

#### ***What this section covers***

*Your learning pathways and the kinds of opportunities, networks, or support systems you have had access to.*

#### ***Why we're asking***

*We want to understand:*

- *How you build knowledge and experience*
- *What kinds of support or exposure you have (or have not) received so far*

#### ***How to approach it***

- *Select all options that apply*
- *We value field-based and lived experience equally alongside formal pathways*
- *Limited access to opportunities will not disadvantage your application*

- *Community knowledge, self-learning, and experiential learning are all valid pathways*

### **Questions in this section**

- How you currently build knowledge
- Types of support/exposure you have had access to

### **Section 4: Experience Snapshot**

#### ***What this section covers***

*Your journey and the challenges you see in your context.*

#### ***Why we're asking***

*This helps us understand:*

- *Your motivation and engagement*
- *Your understanding of your context*

#### ***How to approach it***

- *For your journey:*
  - *Share how you got into this work*
  - *Highlight key experiences or moments*
  - *Tell us what keeps you motivated or committed*
- *For your Challenges:*
  - *Focus on 1–2 key challenges (Ecological, Social, Livelihood related, Governance related)*
  - *Try to ground them in your specific context*
  - *Real examples from your context where possible*
- *For the long answer questions, you can also share the responses in video form- make sure you are audible, there is no background voice, you are visible on camera, and the whole response is getting recorded.*

#### ***Video Response Guidance***

*You may choose to respond through video. Please ensure:*

- *You are audible and visible*
- *There is minimal background noise*
- *Your response is complete and clearly recorded*

### **Questions in this section**

- Your journey so far
- Key conservation challenges in your context

## **Section 5: Fellowship Focus**

### ***What this section covers***

*What you would like to explore, understand, or work on during the Fellowship.*

### ***Why we're asking***

*We want to understand your curiosity, interests, and emerging questions — not fully-developed projects or polished proposals.*

### ***How to approach it***

- *What you want to explore can be:*
  - *A question you're curious about*
  - *A challenge you want to understand better*
  - *A practice you want to document or test*
  - *You do not need a complete solution or proposal*
- *To explain why it matters ( in your specific context), you can link it to: community needs, ecological, concerns and other gaps you've observed*
- *For the long answer questions, you can also share the responses in video form- make sure you are audible, there is no background voice, you are visible on camera, and the whole response is getting recorded.*

### ***Video Response Guidance***

*You may choose to respond through video. Please ensure:*

- *You are audible and visible*
- *There is minimal background noise*
- *Your response is complete and clearly recorded*

### ***Questions in this section***

- *What you would like to explore during the Fellowship*
- *Why this is important in your context*

## **Section 6: Support Needs**

### ***What this section covers***

*What kind of support would help you move forward.*

### ***Why we're asking***

*To understand what kind of support systems will be most useful for you*

### ***How to approach it***

- *Select up to 3 options that matter most to you*
- *Think about what would actually help you progress*

- *There are no preferred answers*
- *For the long answer questions, you can also share the responses in video form- make sure you are audible, there is no background voice, you are visible on camera, and the whole response is getting recorded.*

#### **Questions in this section**

- Types of support needed

### **Section 7: Final Reflection**

#### ***What this section covers***

*Our expectations from the Fellowship and how you see it supporting your journey.*

#### ***Why we're asking***

*We want to understand how you see the Fellowship supporting your journey.*

#### ***How to approach it***

*Reflect on:*

- *Your current situation*
- *Challenges or gaps you are navigating*
- *What kinds of support, exposure, or learning would help you move forward*

#### ***Video Response Guidance***

*You may choose to respond through video. Please ensure:*

- *You are audible and visible*
- *There is minimal background noise*
- *Your response is complete and clearly recorded*

#### **Questions in this section**

- How the Fellowship could support your journey